Nation

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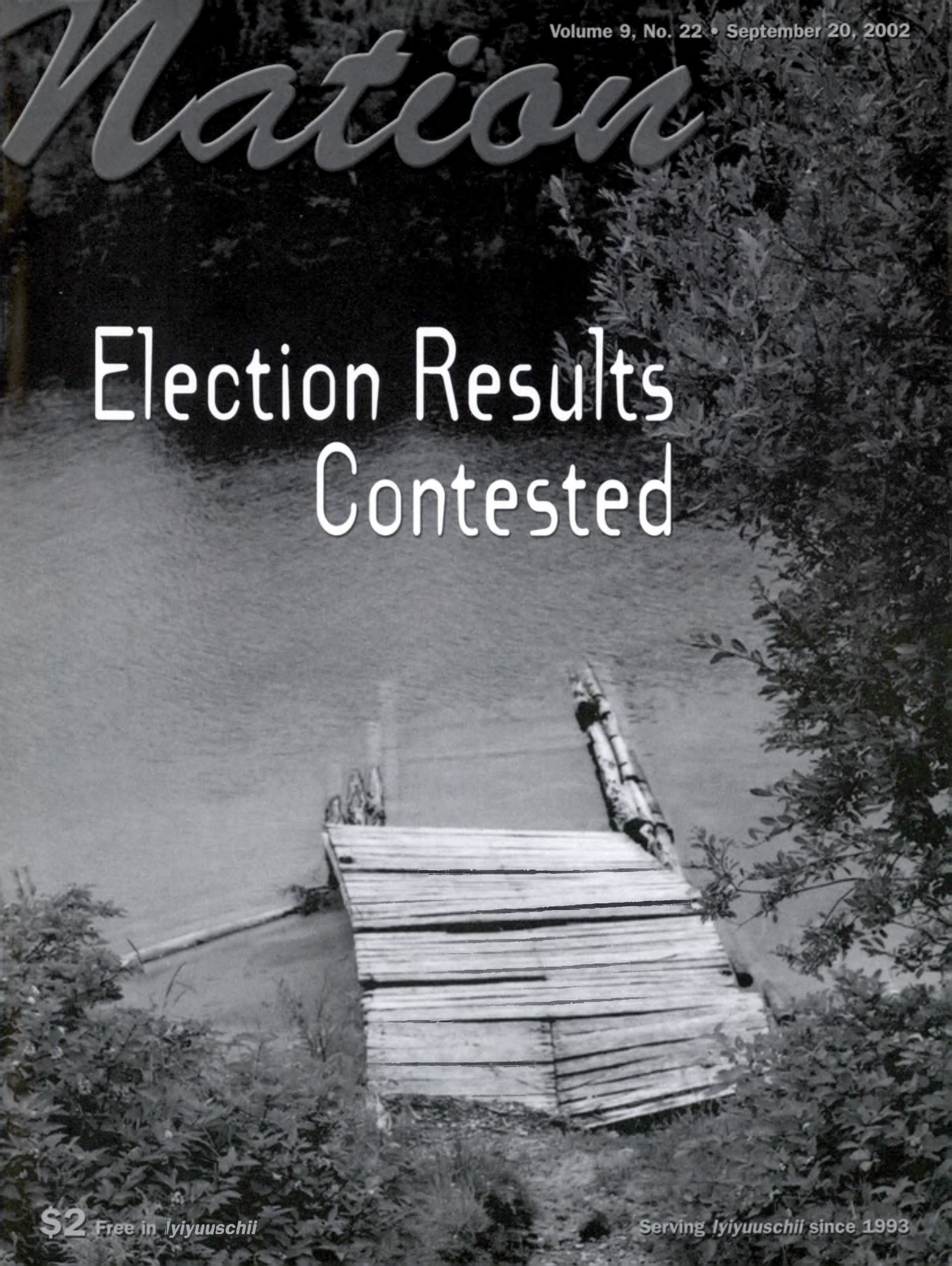
Election Results Contested



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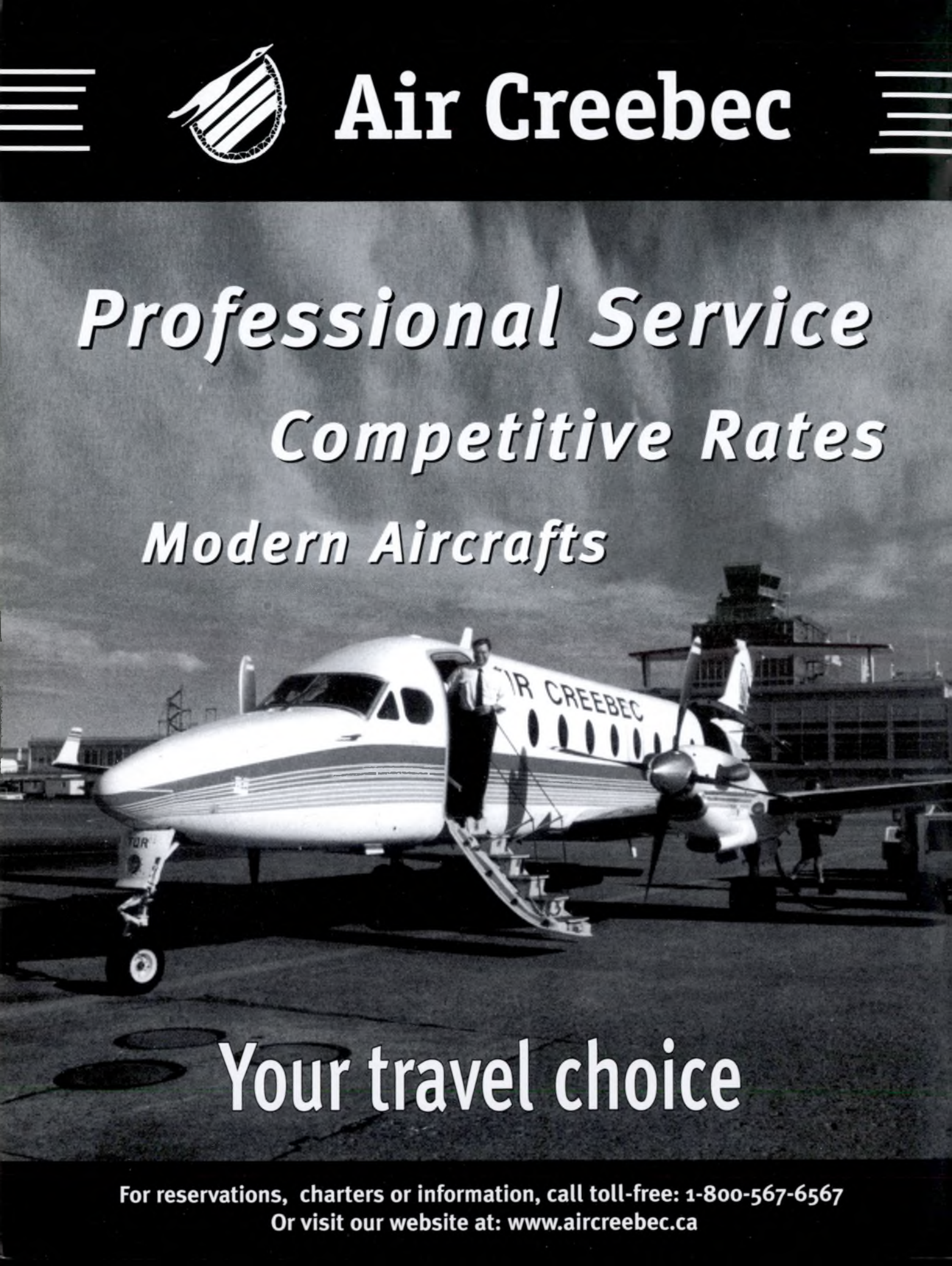
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Beluga Blues

In Kuujjuuarapik (or Whapmagoostui), whale hunting is a tradition still practiced by our Inuit brethren. When the whale is sighted out amongst the rolling waves of the Hudson's Bay, people anxiously await the return of the favored muktuk, or raw whale skin, a delicacy that may go the way of the passenger pigeon. The number of whales has gone down dramatically, since high-powered motorboats with every technological wonder aboard and big barreled rifles have changed the style of the Inuit hunter. These seafaring nomads go from one pod to another in the quest for more muktuk.

Lately, the beluga has been the centre of the target at the end of one of these big bored ballistic whapmag killers, enough so that the Inuit must go south of the 55th parallel in order to harvest their traditional Inuit fare. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans have allotted some area in the James Bay area, near the Cape Jones, for the harvest of belugas. This is directly due to the over harvesting of beluga in the traditional waters off the Hudson and Ungava coasts by our Inuit brothers in Nunavik.

What gets me about this scenario is that the DFO will go overboard to stop people from getting the precious lobster in the cool waters off the Burnt Church coast, yet will authorize and recommend the killing of belugas in areas where the white whale has not been hunted since the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and have been basically left to thrive in those semi-briny waters. What's the difference? Is it because muktuk is not a taste found in fancy restaurants of the south or has no value other than to the palate of the Inuit? I have nothing against the hunt of whales but I cannot understand the rational of one (so called dominant) society saying to another society (who has been around long before they were) that they cannot practice their traditional rights to harvest when on the other hand, say go ahead and make your day to another aboriginal society and culture who have nearly depleted their allowable and allocated resources? Is lobster now on the endangered species list?

Speaking of endangered species, I understand that the honest second hand car dealer is now on the list of endangered humans, since the signing of the great peace accord has put many a derelict vehicle out the back door in favour of the shiny new 2003 models. I had a hard time finding second hand vehicles in the Abitibi region as the dealers say that my particular model has been selling like hotcakes for many years (yet no one brought any back to trade in?). New vehicles, sure thing, but trying to find a decent deal when you're rumored to be floating in dollars is pretty hard to do.

Another nasty pattern that I see surfacing is that after many years of debate to whether or not we Cree have potential or not as partners in business, is that the new peace has opened the gateway to the north (somewhere in Abitibi) and that the flow of funds southbound from tax-free lands to the mall-infested south is more welcome than ever, year round no less. Yep, we are no longer regarded as a bi-annual market (hockey and softball tourneys), but we are now welcome all year round. What a relief, knowing this new trend is sure to hike up prices in anticipation of our newfound wealth. Will we ever get out of the stereotype of the rich Cree? I hope that one day my income bracket will hover a lot higher above the dollar store market, and I get my buck's worth out of this deal.

By Sonny Orr

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Mistissini
Photographer: Will Nicholls
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Rez Ndiamon notes

Interesting times and all that

Ever since the 1995 Quebec Referendum I've been very careful about how I fill out my ballot. I've marked my X with extreme precision, staying inside the box and probably paying more attention to that than who or what I was voting for. Luckily, the last presidential election in the States, with all those defective chads and too-close-to-call results, slapped me wide awake. I learned that everyone's vote *can* count and everyone's vote could be in jeopardy. This past Cree election confirmed that lesson.

We Crees seem to have a love/hate relationship with this thing called democracy. Maybe we think it's too good to be true and it will never work. Maybe we only love it when it works in our favour and hate it when it cheats on us.

Remember how proud you felt when the Cree voted 90 something point something per cent to stay with Canada during the 95 'dum? I felt proud too until a Cree lawyer laughed and said I didn't know a damned thing after I reminded him of it. He seemed to know what went down then and his laugh angered me because I knew he was right. It had been a sham. It wasn't what it seemed. Even though it was claimed that many Cree voted and officials were helicoptered in to make sure the maximum number of voters had their say.

The same thing happened with our referendum on the "New Relationship" with Quebec. Or as a friend so eloquently coined it, "The Rug Burn Agreement." Whoever said, "The tree of liberty must be nourished by the blood of patriots from time to time" must have been thinking about brother Henry. Think of it, less than 50 percent actually approve all of our major decisions and when the results come in the people who won say it was a triumph for democracy and the losers say democracy has been triumphed over.

And then there's the whole thing about margins. People can say the overwhelming margins tell the story or the margins don't mean a thing and it's the numbers that count. Tight margins can kill the winner's victory. Look at Quebec sovereignty. The PQ are only now cautiously broaching the subject and they're careful to give themselves lots of room and time. And it's been what, seven years?

I have to say Ted Moses did not walk with his usual swagger the morning the results of his "victory" were announced. There was no immediate press release issued from his office saying the Crees were united in choosing him as leader and therefore confirmed the results of the AIP referendum. No. The results said what the AIP opposition has been saying all along: Slow down and let's do this right. We need time, we have to understand this, what's the hurry? How I would have loved to have been on the guest list to that "victory party." If there was one at all.

There are many unanswered questions about this past election. Why is it that some doofus of a returning officer got locked out of his home while trying to furnish more ballots, just minutes before the voting deadline? Why weren't 30 Chisasibi voters allowed time off from backbreaking labour to go and vote? Why were 500 beneficiaries of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement who just happen to live in Ontario told they were "outsiders?" and ergo, could take a long walk off a short dock.

I want to know. I reeeaallly want to know.

If the Cree are going to have a committed relationship with democracy we should at least try to do it right, instead of slapping it around once awhile saying, "make me breakfast, b*tch!"

I told many people this election was going to be the most interesting one in years. However, I was Will's campaign manager, so what the hell do I know?

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FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS

by Will Nicholls

As much as we all try to make things happen right, people still fall through the cracks in our system. Raymond Duff is one of those people. There is no blame attached to any organization that Duff dealt with. It was just a series of events that show us all that we still have work to do.

Duff was informed by the Quebec government he had to go back to school since he was a registered apprentice for seven years and then after the course he would be a licensed electrician. So Duff went back to school at Aviron Technical Institute to take an Electricity in Construction Course. He did some night courses in September leading up to a full-time position in February of this year. He paid the $10,000 tuition fee out of his own pocket. He moved his wife and four children to Kahnawake. He wasn't eligible for EI insurance as he was ten hours short. He fell through the first crack in the system.

Duff went to see Cree School Board Chair Mabel Herodier about some funding. He was told that the Cree School Board didn't fund apprenticeship programs. *The Nation* asked Cree School Board official Jane Blacksmith about this case. Blacksmith said that they didn't usually fund these types of programs since apprentices were paid a salary by a company to go to school. Duff never talked to one of the post secondary technicians about his not getting paid to go to school and never applied after his talk with Herodier. Duff slipped through the second crack. He was advised to try the Cree Human Resources Department. Duff said he requested a letter of refusal listing the reasons why but has never received one.

Duff applied to the CHRD but his application never made it to the board as it was refused internally. One of the criteria for acceptance in any CHRD program is that the applicant must live in a Cree community. Duff was by now living in Kahnawake and thus fell through the third crack in the system. CHRD, though, advised Duff to apply for the Urban Strategy Program for Natives. Duff applied, only to be refused as he was living on a reserve. Urban Strategy advised him to apply under a Kahnawake program. The fourth crack swallowed Duff as easily as the rest.

Duff then headed to the Kahnawake Band Council with yet another application in hand. He was refused as he wasn't Mohawk and advised to return to Urban Strategy. This was the fifth crack in the system Duff couldn't step over.

"By this time I was getting desperate," Duff told the Nation. "I was living on just family allowance and whatever my parents could send me for the past eight months. Hydro was ready to cut off my power and the people renting the house to me were ready to evict me. I went to the Chisasibi Band Council for help." The Chisasibi Band Council loaned Duff enough money to pay for his hydro and rent. His fellow students like Duff so much they have all chipped in to buy his textbooks and even though he has all these problems he still has a 95 per cent average. Duff estimates he owes close to $20,000 now. "I still have three months to go," said Duff, adding he wasn't sure how he was going to do it. "I hear about all this money they got. I don't really see why they can't help me."

No entity actually did anything wrong in this instance. In fact everyone I have talked to is sympathetic to Duff's plight, but cite the criteria needed under the programs. Since everyone followed the rules then perhaps the rules and regulations need to be changed or more Crees will end up like Duff in the future.

In the meantime, Duff still needs to get through school so perhaps some kind souls in each community could start a Get Raymond Duff Through School Drive and drop the proceeds into Duff's account at the Toronto Dominion Branch # 40841 Account # 3109041. Surely ambition like this shouldn't be lost.

Breath Up Breath Down

On Thursday, Aug. 29, little Danielle was born. the Latest Cree wasn't born in the bush or in a hospital. She was born in a plane. A Propair medivac airplane to be exact. Danielle's mother Kristen Iserhoff went into premature labour and Propair was called to take Iserhoff to the Val d'Or hospital. Little Danielle (6 lbs. 7 oz.) decided she didn't want to wait for the hospital and was born on the plane. Coordinator of the Service Nurse Guylaine Leblond delivered Danielle at 9:25 pm, assisted by Nadie Ouimet.

The Medical Staff of Propair

Doctor Jean Houde, medical director of the company, said that while a doctor was not on the plane, the nurse and therapist were the most experienced people in natal care.

Houde went on to say that while the hospital at Chisasibi could handle births, there isn't a surgical obstetrician on hand in case a caesarian is needed. He added that most Cree women are brought to Val d'Or well in advance of giving birth and that everything went well. "The equipment and the people on the plane are great," he said.

Houde added that the doctors, nurses and other medical staff as well as the pilots at Propair who welcomed Danielle into the world wish the best for the Iserhoff family and their new addition. The Nation wishes the same.

Linda Sioui, Wendake, PQ

Kwe kwe all,

Well, sad news for our community. Our community Primary school just burned today. It was an awful scene, as I was coming home (the school is located at the end of my street). Several firemen trucks were there. It was not too long that the Wendake community gathered & watched powerless.

Our primary school was very well equipped & it has been renovated just about 1-2 years ago. All the schoolbooks & school equipment was there. Some little ones watched, crying. From what was gathered on the spot, all the classes (from pre-kindergarten to 6th grade) are a total loss.

It is sad, because so near to the beginning of the school year. Hopefully the little ones can be relocated in schools near by.

Linda (Awenda) Sioui
Wendake
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MoCreebec calls for new election

Case closed, responds returning officer

The MoCreebec Council of the Cree Nation is demanding a new Grand Council election, based on the failure to provide voting stations in northern Ontario for the estimated 500-700 eligible Quebec Cree beneficiaries living there.

In a letter to Chief Returning Officer John Henry Wapachee signed by seven members of the council, the organization says the Supreme Court of Canada's Corbiere decision entitled them to a vote in the hotly contested Aug. 28 election.

"We acknowledge that fellow beneficiaries were able to participate in the elections in locations such as North Bay, Ottawa, among other locations, yet no effort was made to allow for our participation here in Cree territory, effectively denying our right to participate in this election," the MoCreebec council wrote Sept. 9. "As a result, we contest the lack of a notice of an election; the absence of a voting station; all of which results in the violation of our rights, affirmed by the Supreme Court in Corbiere, to participate in the elections of the GCCEI/CRA."

"We register with you our strongest objection to such a gross violation of our rights and therefore ask you to call for a new election."

The letter is signed by MoCreebec chief Randy Kapashesit, Archie Hester, Allan Jolly, Michael Morrison, George Small Jr., Clifford Trapper and Dorothy Winne.

According to an Assembly of First Nations factsheet, the 1999 Corbiere decision ruled that treating people differently based on where they live is discrimination. "Denying the vote to members because they live off the reserve is a form of discrimination," says the factsheet. "Corbiere determined that voting rights could not be discriminatory."

But Chief Returning Officer John Henry Wapachee says the case is closed. "It all comes down to one thing: I have already certified the elections, on the 29th and the recount," he told the Nation. "As far as my mandate is concerned, it is pretty much completed; what I was asked to do.

But Wapachee maintains the elections were conducted openly and fairly. "It's fair for me to say that these people [the MoCreebec Council] never indicated to me their preoccupation with the process," he noted. "From my standpoint, I believe the elections were carried out in a manner consistent with the current legal and administrative requirements, as they were consistently carried out in the past."

Wapachee said he had already declared the election closed prior to receiving the letter from MoCreebec. "And it's not within my mandate to entertain a request for new elections.... Again, they never indicated to me their preoccupation with this process. But it was never clear to me what exactly their preoccupation is."

Grand Council executive director Bill Namagoose echos the sentiment. "Voters have an obligation to be proactive," he said. "They should have notified us when the election notices were posted."

Nonetheless, Namagoose held out hope that the Grand Council bylaws may be changed in the future, calling the lack of a voting station for the MoCreebec people an "oversight."

In this case, however, Namagoose said the Grand Council must stand by the returning officer's decision, though he noted Wapachee does not have the authority to call for a new election.

Finally, he questions whether the MoCreebec Council is acting on a "political motive."

"The fact is they were not proactive and they waited for the results," he said.

By Lyle Stewart

Lubicons to Jean: keep your promise

The Lubicon Lake Indian Nation in Alberta wants outgoing Prime Minister Jean Chretien to keep his word. Before Chretien became Prime Minister in 1993, he wrote to the Friends of the Lubicon expressing his support for a settlement of Lubicon land rights. He wrote that "time is wasting" and that it was "time for action," and that he "consider[ed] the Lubicon claim to be a priority."

The Lubicon note that nine years have passed since that time and there is still no settlement of land rights.

"It's our hope that Prime Minister Chretien will fulfill his promise before leaving office," said the Friends of the Lubicon support group in a press communique. "A settlement is certainly possible within that time: the issues are well defined and the relevant technical work has basically been done. What seems to be missing is the drive to conclude a fair settlement. With Mr. Chretien's personal involvement, direction and willpower Lubicon land rights could, at long last, be resolved."

The Friends of the Lubicon wrote to Prime Minister Chretien recently reminding him of his long-standing promise to resolve Lubicon land rights and asking that, before he leaves office, he fulfill that promise. The Friends also wrote to Paul Martin, Sheila Copps, John Manley and Allan Rock, asking that, as potential successors to Chretien, they commit to concluding a just settlement of Lubicon land rights should the job remain unfinished by the time Chretien leaves office.

The group notes that Prime Minister Chretien is looking to leave behind a proud legacy when he finishes his many years of public service. To fulfill the promise of a fair Lubicon settlement after so many years would be a tangible legacy, they say, one that would win acclaim from not only Canadians but from the many people around the world who have expressed concern over this long-standing human rights tragedy.

One in three bands miss audit deadline

The Canadian Press reports that nearly a third of Indian-band and related agency audits, required to track $5-billion in federal funds, are incomplete well past a July

Con't on Page 9

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Elections Canada

31 deadline.

The Indian Affairs Department says the number of late or unfinished annual reports is nearly 50 per cent in Ontario, where 64 of 126 band audits are in and approved. In Quebec, 16 of 39 bands — 41 per cent — have not yet accounted for the money or must provide more detail.

"We mustn't link the lack of an audit to misspending of funds," said Cal Hegge, director of transfer payments for Indian Affairs. Some first nations needed more time to fulfill a new requirement this year that federal funds be separated from private, band-owned revenue, he said.

Others were delayed by vacation schedules and overbooked auditors. Indian Affairs has so far signed off on 621 of 881 fiscal reports required from almost 600 native bands and related groups that receive $30,000 a year or more.

That leaves 260 — 30 per cent — audits outstanding. The late rate held steady from last year despite government efforts to stress timely reporting and transparency. It is an improvement over the 38 per cent that were tardy in 2000. Forty per cent were overdue in 1999.

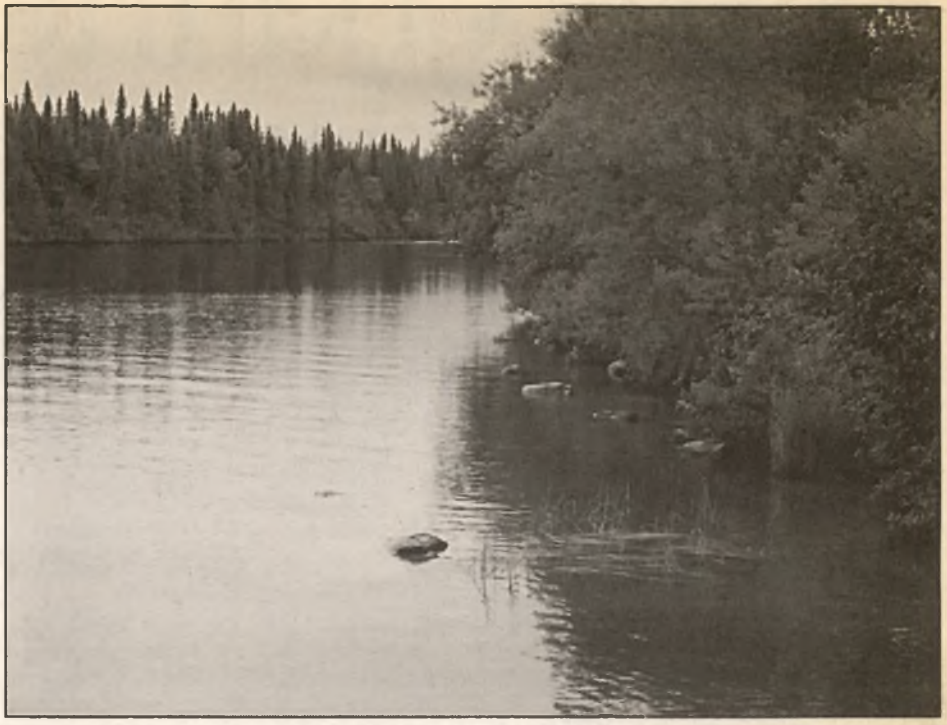
US eco-group targets Staples for using Canadian old growth

A San Francisco-based environmental group is accusing the Staples office supply chain of misleading customers about its sale of paper products from old-growth forests.

Associated Press reports that ForestEthics claims that fibre from old growth trees in Indonesia and Canada is regularly provided to the company by suppliers. Staples has told customers in an open letter that "we work closely with our vendors to ensure they do not sell Staples any products made from old-growth forests."

Staples spokesman Owen Davis said the company "takes its commitment to environmental stewardship seriously." He said he could not comment specifically on the report but said the company would be announcing a new environmental purchasing policy this fall.

ForestEthics does not claim that Staples actively seeks old growth wood products, but that it has no reliable mechanism to ensure that suppliers live up to the requirement that their products not come from such forests.



The group's report claims that one supplier, Montreal-based Domtar Inc., logs in old growth areas of the boreal forest that stretches across eastern Canada, and that the company's Espanola Pulp Mill in Ontario does not separate old-growth pulp from other pulp.

It makes similar claims about pulp supplies from British Columbia and Indonesia. Davis said that Staples had asked suppliers for assurances they were not using old growth forest products, and said the company received such assurances from a majority of its suppliers. But some did not respond, and Davis acknowledged they had not been cut off as suppliers or faced any consequences.

Hydro dams destroy forests

Canada wants the Kyoto accord on climate change to be structured so as to give Canada credits for "clean" energy exports of hydroelectricity (and natural gas) to the U.S. But according to a joint statement of the Sierra Club of Canada and Pimicikamak Cree Nation of northern Manitoba, this plan would do little more than reduce the need for real emission reductions and cause further harm to Canada's boreal forests. The statement quotes a panel of international religious authorities who describe the hydro project affecting the Pimicikamak Cree in northern Manitoba as "an ongoing ecological, social and moral catastrophe." The statement also notes that hydro projects undermine the health of boreal forests, which are critical carbon sinks. "Clean" energy export credits would simply replace one environmental problem with another.

Pimicikamak Chief John Miswagon will speak about his people's duty to protect their boreal homeland on Sept. 21 at the Forests of the Northern Lights conference in Winnipeg.

Most Canadian watersheds are impacted by hydro-electric projects as Canada is the world's largest supplier of hydroelectric power. The majority of its 662 large dams are in the boreal. According to a 1996 government study, in Canada's boreal shield, 85 per cent of rivers have been altered by hydro development, 77 per cent of drainage areas have major dams, 25 per cent have major reservoirs, and a third have rivers with either augmented or diminished flows as a result of diversions. Resulting impacts on ecosystems have serious consequences for the overall health of the boreal.

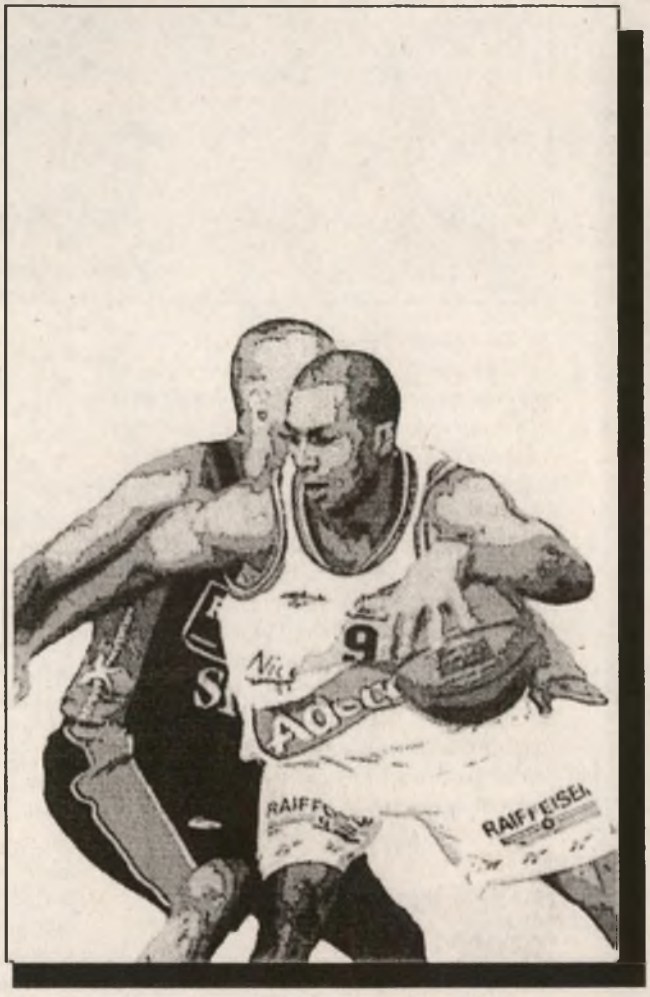
Hydro projects worth $40 billion are either under construction or consideration in Canada currently. Almost $8 billion of this would be the expansion of a mega-project that impacts the Pimicikamak Cree in northern Manitoba – including a proposed 800 km transmission corridor through a critical area of intact boreal forest.

Titus Channer:

Point Guard for Team Canada

BY TSA

We all know that Lacrosse is a Canadian sport, but it's almost hard to believe that basketball is a sport that originated in Canada too, only because the US has taken the ball, so to speak, and run away with it, turning b-ball into the huge phenomenon that it is. It is a sport where the players are idolized and the teams are looked upon as family almost and rooted for by feverishly passionate fans. It's a fun sport, a thrilling sport, a sort of poetry-in-motion sport, where superbly toned athletes run up and down the court slam-dunking, alley-ooping, and flicking their wrists from downtown to the delight of fans around the world. The players make it look so easy too, making you think that you could take to the court and perform the feats of magic like they do with no problem. But y'all know that's not true. It is a gruelingly competitive, highly skilled sport, that thousands play but few excel at.

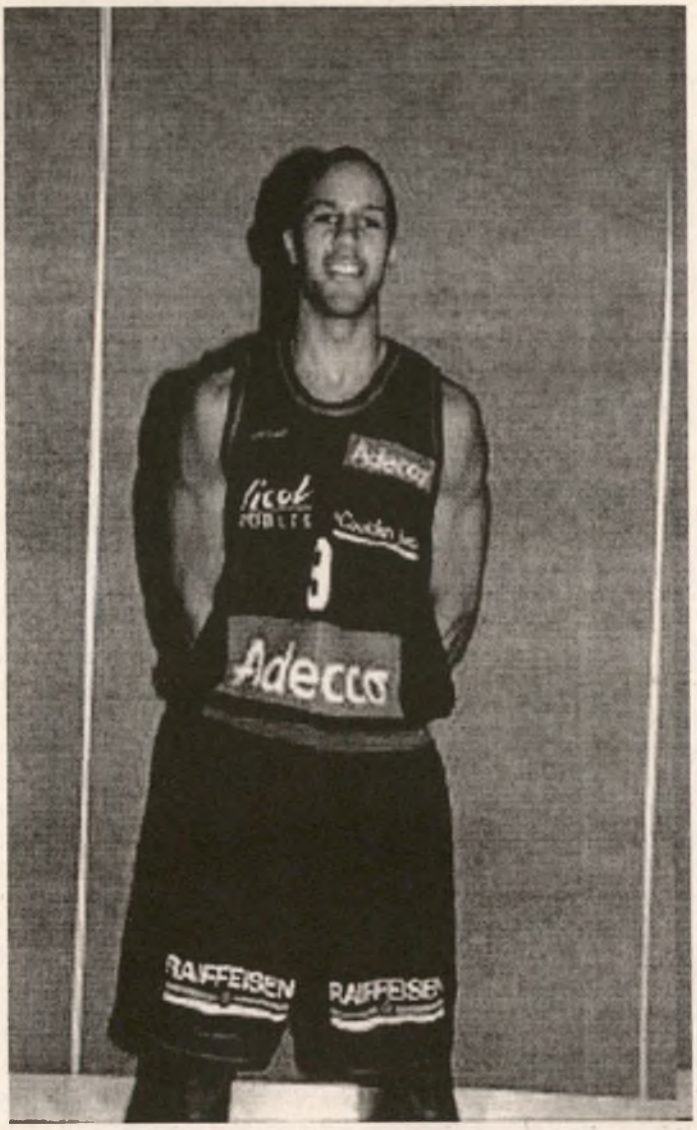


Last May, Canada's national team held their two-month training camp in Toronto and British Columbia. While 35 of Canada's finest basketball players were invited, only 12 made the cut. Among them was Waswanipi's own Titus Channer, the first Native ever to make the team. He has finished his first season on the team and has just returned from the World Basketball Championships, held in Indianapolis. With only three weeks of team preparation where Titus was named as the starting Point Guard, Team Canada posted a record of two wins and three losses, defeating Venezuela and Lebanon, and finishing 13th out of 16 teams. Titus played an averaged 25 minutes a game and 14 points per game, not bad for a rookie.

Titus is no rookie to the game though. He has played on teams since he was 14, back when he was also into soccer, volleyball and track and field. He began playing one on one with his cousins Cargel, Norman and Robert in Hamilton and Waswanipi and fell in love with the game. A very goal oriented guy, he set out to climb the ladder of teams and hone his skills. He made his first team in Grade 9 and gradually made it to the university level where he became a star. He collected many awards along the way, such as rookie of the year, player of the year (twice!), and was all-time leading scorer with 1494 points. In 1998 he received the prestigious Howard Mackie award, which is based on athletic accomplishment, outstanding sportsmanship and leadership qualities, as CIAU male athlete of the year. Titus was instrumental in leading the Mc Master Marauders to several titles in a row and holds the 13th and 29th place for most points in a single game with 37 and 32. His interests in urban planning and other cultures led him to graduate in 1998 with a B.A. in Geography and Anthropology, maintaining an A- average.

That cultural curiosity has been put to good use as Titus has spent the last four years playing pro ball in Finland, Austria and Switzerland, where he averages about 23 points a game. A nice gig if you can get it, as the team will set you up with an apartment, a car, plus a salary. It's extremely

Titus isn't just your average jock. He is acutely aware of his position and responsibility as a role model, especially to Native youth. He knows of the hazards and pitfalls out there facing all youth, and he says that, "some people will always be out to put you down, especially when you're good at what you do." Titus has consciously made the choice to surround himself with positive things and positive people, which he says is really important. His parents have always been very supportive of him, his mother is full Cree and his father is Jamaican, and Titus is equally proud of both heritages. He brings it all and represents whether he is on the court or off. He has worked hard at bringing his wealth of experience and knowledge back to the community of Waswanipi and the Canadian community at large. Extremely well spoken, he has been an avid public speaker at high schools and elementary schools across the country, relaying his experience as a Native and as a pro athlete. Titus has not only been a counselor at basketball camps in Calgary, Moose Factory, Six Nations and other communities. Together with his best bud Andrew Peters, he has taken on the task of starting his own b-ball camp in Waswanipi. Held the past 2 summers, camp "Rising Stars" was attended by 100 girls and boys between the ages of 7-17. Titus and Andrew brought in teachers, coaches and other university players to help out and make the week long camp a success. Even Titus' sister, herself a Forward for Laurier University, was there. The camp was so warmly received that they have had requests from other communities to hold camps. So in the coming years, look for that in a community near you! Titus says that they have plans to expand the camps, hold tournaments, incorporate life-skills workshops and also provide services for any sport the youth might be interested in, such as soccer and track and field.



Now home in Hamilton on a brief break to recoup, regroup and hang with his girlfriend, Titus will be heading back to the European pro league in October until May. He will probably play in France this year, where he can put to use the French he learned while in Switzerland. After that, the next big goal is to help Team Canada make it to the 2004 Olympic games in Athens. Sixteen teams will earn the privilege to play in these historic games. In Australia two years ago, Team Canada placed a very respectable sixth. If things go according to Titus' goals, we will all be glued to our TV sets as we watch #6, Titus Channer, break new grounds and forge new dreams for many a youngster.

As for long term goals, if the opportunity to play in the NBA should present itself, Titus will grab it. Otherwise he hopes to play pro ball for another five years, have a family and devote himself full-time to developing camps and giving back to the communities that helped make his dreams come true. For now, Titus is living up to the meaning of his name as "brave and strong."

To all the budding athletes out there he offers these words: "Don't be afraid to dream about what you want. Try to set goals, start with something small leading up to something big. I've always set goals and worked at improving myself, not just as a student and an athlete, but as a person. It may sound corny, but with hard work, dreams do come true." Words from the wise – the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

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There's a new deputy in town

Paul Gull wakes up to find himself a winner

by Lyle Stewart

Paul Gull was sleeping when the returning officer for the Grand Council elections, John Henry Wapachee, telephoned him at home late in the evening Aug. 29. "My son woke me up, saying the returning officer called," Gull recounted. "I didn't know what to think. He gave me Losty's numbers first. And I thought, 'What's he doing this for?' I was still half asleep. Then he said, 'Well, the reason I called was to tell you that you won.' After that I was a little overwhelmed."

The former chief of Waswanipi will take over the job of Deputy Grand Chief from Matthew Mukash. He took 1,500 of the 4,229 votes cast, or 35.5 per cent, in a five-way race. Losty Mamianskum came in second with 1,168 votes.

Gull says he was fairly confident of winning the job, citing his experience of working with the Cree School Board, the Cree Regional Authority, the Grand Council, and as chief of his community. "Based on my experience I figured it was possible to win," he told *The Nation*. "But I wouldn't say I didn't have any doubts."

Gull had considered running for reelection as Chief of Waswanipi, while still taking at shot at the Grand Council position, for which the candidate filing deadline was later. After talking it over with his wife, they decided it wouldn't look good to be running for two positions at once. "But if I didn't win as Deputy Grand Chief I wouldn't have a job right now," Gull remarked.

He is currently getting oriented to the position. "Generally, my priorities are in the communities," he stated. "Getting funding for projects. Jobs for young people."

Also at the top of his list is the forestry issue, which he handled for the Grand Council while Chief of Waswanipi. As chief of a community that has been devastated by clearcuts, he headed up a challenge that included a $500 million lawsuit against the governments of Quebec and Canada. The suit against Quebec has since been dropped with the Agreement on a new relationship with the province.

The issue still concerns him, and played a role in his decision to run for the Grand Council. "It seemed like I was being slowly eliminated from the file," he noted. "I didn't like that. So I would like to do a little more on forestry in terms of meeting the needs of the trappers. I think that is the cry at the community level; that there was not enough for the trappers in the forestry section of the AIP. There are still some issues outstanding that have to be dealt with. I would push for those."

He says the forestry issue is a priority for all communities: "To have something for the trappers, whether it's remedial works, harmonization, or whatever you want to call it. We have to understand the needs of the trappers. I think the Chief of Waswanipi, Mr. Robert Kitchen, knows exactly what I'm talking about."

Personally, he was unhappy with the way the forestry file was handled in the Agreement with Quebec. "But overall, generally, for the long term we had to make decisions," he said. "And the decision was to aim for the long term. It wasn't easy, but a decision had to made at the time. And as with any agreement, we can still improve them as time goes by."

While a peace of the brave now governs the relationship with the province, there's still a war in the woods with the forestry multinationals that are leaving Mohawk haircuts throughout Cree forest lands. "The forestry companies did not want to withdraw from the court case," Gull observed. "Right now I hear there is a table of negotiation that all the lawyers have agreed to. But we still don't have a general statement saying that they're ready to talk. [An agreement with the forest companies] could be a long way off. It all depends on a decision on the other side. Getting a negotiation could be very quick or it could be very slow and painful."

In Waswanipi, the most southern of the Cree communities, the issue is especially acute. "If you look at the satellite photos, they're cutting right around the cast of Nabakatuk [Waswanipi's sawmill company], the wood rights that Nabakatuk has. We're supposed to get more wood, but we're not certain where the wood is going to come from. That's still an outstanding issue that the Quebec government has to deal with. They promised that by July 11 they would come up with where the wood is supposed to come from. They haven't done that yet."

As for Waswanipi's trappers, Gull says they are fighting to survive. He notes the Agreement with Quebec forbids companies from cutting more than 40 per cent of any one trapline. "But at the moment in some cases they have exceeded that amount," he said.

As for the unsettled issue of the election for Grand Chief, Gull is understandably reticent to comment on the results that are being challenged; after an official recount, incumbent Grand Chief Ted Moses holds a 32-vote lead over former Deputy Grand Chief Matthew Mukash. "I'd like to see it settled before I make any statement," Gull said, adding, "I would have no problem working with either man."

An Interview with Mistissini Chief John Longchap

By Will Nicholls

Mistissini Chief John Longchap entered his second term winning over challenger Thomas Neeposh. In an exclusive interview with *the Nation* Longchap outlined his hopes and dreams for Mistissini.

The Nation: You been re-elected. How did that feel?

Chief John Longchap: I was very proud to be re-elected to be chief again. I was proud for many reasons. One is the reputation of the community and the professionalism that Mistissini has shown in the past. We also have a very good rapport in terms of organization and administration of our community, given the long history of the community and its chiefs and the work they have done. Our community has produced good people that are known outside of our community in different areas. I was very proud to be re-elected because of these things.

What do you plan for the future?

Well, I have my plan outlined in my campaign platform. My platform is about the needs of the community and that is what I am going to work on for the next four years. I hope to realize these in the next four years. I plan to work on them with help from the community members. I want to make sure the projects are finished and the issues see realization.

Could you give me some examples?

One of them is job creation. We want to find work for the community in terms of developing and growing a sustainable economy for our community by providing work on a permanent basis. Right now work is mostly seasonal and this is how it has been in the past. Now there is a need to change that and provide an economic base for the community. Right now there is only the administrative sector. By this I mean work that comes out of the running of certain entities and their offices. We have nothing that provides fulltime employment outside of that in terms of industry so that's something I would like to look at. By this I mean a economic base through long lasting industries.

One of the things we are studying right now is a wood beam mill project, which would provide wood beams to be sold on the market. This would mean constructing a mill within the community. So that's one idea.

Another is housing. Mistissini is one of the fastest growing communities according to Census Canada in the Cree communities. Because of that our need for housing is greater than the other communities. As of today we are backlogged by 400 to 500 houses. One of my ideas is to increase housing more and more each year in order to clear up that backlog in the future. That one though can't be done in four years but we can start making a dent in it. That would create jobs in our community.

There's the land transfer monies. Will you be using that to make some of this a reality?

Well, we can use funding sources from the new agreement with Quebec or the Ouje-Bougoumou Land Transfer Settlement. Those are sources we can use to increase employment and housing in the community aside from the annual sudsidies from the CHMC we get from the government. So these funds that are coming in the future will complement or be an additional sudsidy realizing more housing and jobs for our community.

There's a lot of new projects happening such as the paving of the road from Chibougamau to Mistissini. Are there Cree jobs being realized with these?

Yes, the first year, this year, we split between MTQ and us, the labourers and the machinery for the project because the first year it's being administered by MTQ. But in the second year and third year the contract will be under the Cree Nation of Mistissini so we'll decide who will be hired. Of course we are going to hire our people.

Then there are job opportunities for people in other areas like forestry operations. We are just beginning to discuss with forestry companies on what kind of contracts they can give us or we can attain through agreements with the companies. This will help in job creation for Mistissini.

There's Camp Nemaska and the work for the EM-1 project. We already have people working there. I can say that we are going to encourage the members of our community to work there. So there's several areas where we can find work for our people.

Is there anything you would like to add?

I'm very honoured to have become Chief of Mistissini for the second time. It's a community that I am very proud of. It has a good reputation with both the federal and provincial governments. I want to continue to maintain that reputation.

I also want to continue to demonstrate the professional that my peers did and I want to keep the spirit of the community in good health. I have to take the spirit of the community into consideration. In my opinion we have always had a good spirit here in Mistissini. I think if I can do that it will help to make a better community.

I can say that with the new council that there is a lot of good experience here that will support me in these endeavours. I feel I am standing on firm ground. It's very encouraging and I can say we all want to do good things for the community, for our members and our administration.

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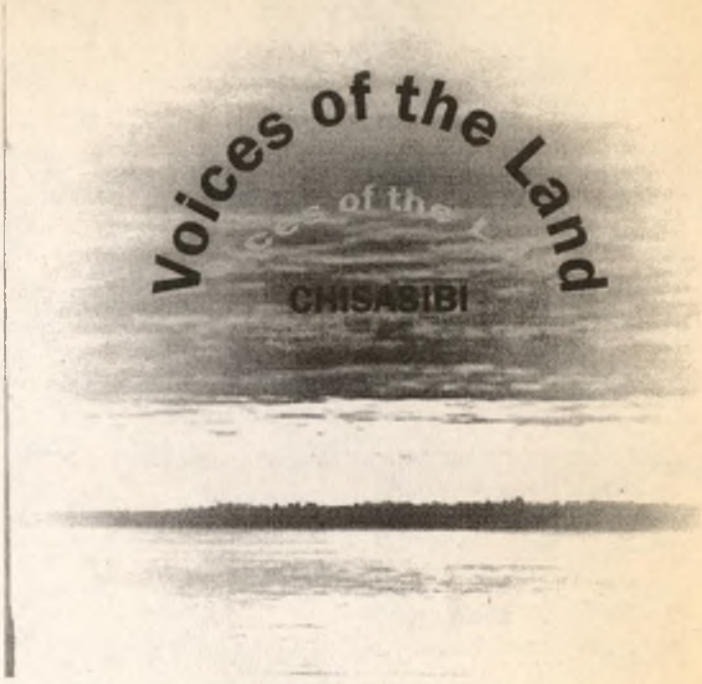
Voices of the Land

By Will Nicholls

Voices of the Land is an unusual compilation. It is neither music, nor poetry, nor spoken word and teaching. It is the combination of all these that takes you on a journey. It is the journey of the people of Chisasibi and it is a beautiful one. It contains anger, loss, hope and a host of other emotions that make up humanity. It is an odyssey of the soul of a people and the land. The amount of work to create a work like this is nothing short of unbelievable but the proof was there in my hands. While I was listening to the two CD set I would grab the liner notes (19 pages) and go through it. When I spoke to Roger House, the co-ordinator of the project, he told me that he was advised to submit it to the Juno Awards. Yes, it is that much of a winner. So much so I had to talk to Roger about *Voices of the Land.*



The Nation: When did you start to work on it?
Roger House: It came out of the Cree gathering that happened last year. The idea at that time was to record various artists and make another compilation album. Once I knew the material and the plan was very vague I decided to get a more concrete idea. Drawing on my experience in the music field I realized that the idea of recording starts with the material so I had to back up a bit and take a good look at what we were doing. This idea came about after meeting with musicians here [Chisasibi], thinking about costs and the reality of recording live. When you record live you have to be almost perfect to make it sound good.
I looked at it all and decided we should do a chronological story of Chisasibi. We have a lot of musicians here. There are a lot of talented people who write their own material about things that have happened in the past. We've been working on this all year and now we are putting the finishing touches on it.

When can we expect it to hit the Cree market?
The recording is all done. We are just finishing the album cover and jacket. We're putting Cree syllabics on it. When we're finished with that it will be two weeks for the manufacturing. It should take about a month.

I was listening to the CD's and I noticed that residential schools played a part in the compilation as well as the dams and the impacts. Do you look at *Voices on the Land* as a healing journey too?
We've let people listen to it to get their feedback. We've noticed it helps them to bring out these feelings that were buried for years. There is a healing aspect to it. This might help with the ongoing healing by natives who have been to residential school. We hope that will be something good for them.

What other types of feedback have you gotten from people who have field tested *Voices on the Land*?
We're working with some people in the music business down south like Randall Prescott. Just yesterday he told me that this material should be submitted to the Juno Selection Committee. I guess he thinks it's that good.

Do you think it's that good?
I'm rather proud of it. Even though we had a lot of different people work on it, that gave it a variety that is the spice of the material. It's like the total range of the rainbow. *Voices of the Land* has all the aspects of the community of Chisasibi. In this way we worked together like one person, one rainbow so to speak or one people. It was a bit of a headache to put it all together in the studio but we did it. It was more hours than I care to think about.

Are you planning to release it to just the Cree market to begin with?
We've gotten calls from as far away as France as to when the album is coming out. The point of this album is to let the world know our story and there is a lot of interest in it.

I found it to be an interesting album. Something that I would definitely want for my collection. Will you be looking at building on this project? Say a video?
I'm a bit knowledgable about the music business and what goes along with it like promotion, distribution and all that. We're taking it step by step so we don't make any major mistakes. We will be looking at these things in our own way and in our own time.

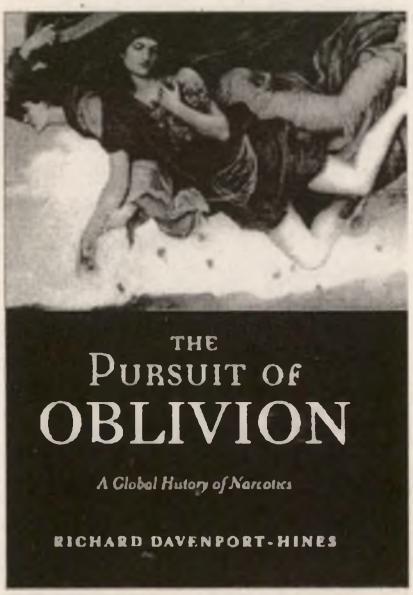
Would you recommend other Cree communities do a similar project?
It would be good. It would carry the stories of the Cree to the world and there's a lot of teachings that the Cree can pass on to the world.

the Dogs Bark

by Melora Koepke

The Pursuit of Oblivion: A Global History of Narcotics 1500-2000
By Richard Davenport-Hines
466pp, Weidenfeld and Nicolson

Cocaine: An Unauthorized Biography
By Dominic Streatfield
510 pp, St Martin's Press



The Pursuit of Oblivion is British freelance scholar Richard Davenport-Hines' prodigious approach to what is probably, after sex and war, humankind's most enduring habit. The author adeptly tackles his sprawling subject by telling familiar tales (Sigmund Freud's coke addiction and the origins of Coca-cola) in a meticulous manner. He leans heavily on a tremendous collection of anecdotes of famous people' addictions, weaving them together with short, sweet renderings of prohibition, the drug-trafficking trade, the Ecstasy craze in Britain and the US presidential drug wars.

Amid the collection of factoids, however, lies real intent. This is a serious scholarly undertaking. Davenport-Hines creates an almost all-inclusive social history of drugs as a way to trace the evolution of Western culture, as far as that culture can be defined by its own deep-seated conflict between self-control and the determined urge to lose control. Or, as his epigraph from George Bataille succinctly puts it: "The need to go astray, to be destroyed is an extremely private, distant, passionate turbulent truth, and has nothing to do with what we call substance."

Despite its girth, Davenport-Hines' tome is missing something. Although his stated scope is a "global" history, he remains largely concerned with the Western concentration on narcotization of drugs. Thus he skims over what, certainly for Americans at least, is the major target of their obsession: the leafy Third-World fields where oblivion flowers in the hot sun.

Though *The Pursuit of Oblivion* devotes several chapters to an examination of the American "War on Drugs," as well as offering an excellent biography of Colombian coke king Pablo Escobar, it doesn't really address the cosmic seesaw of drugs' supply and demand. For every addict in our hemisphere willing to skin his pockets for a dance with the Snow Queen, there is a farmer somewhere with kids to feed. Davenport-Hines passes on an in-depth examination of the foreign supply routes and the many who depend on them. Third-world economic reality, after all, is hardly the most riveting aspect of the drug trade. Or is it? British journalist Dominic Streatfeild, in *Cocaine: An Unauthorized Biography*, devotes an entire brick of a book to the vagaries of one particular drug. He maps its travels meticulously and coherently, with entire chapters on Mexico, Bolivia, Peru and Colombia (though he also, inevitably, includes entry on Freud).

By his own account, the author devoted two years of his life to cocaine. To Streatfeild, the intricacies of the trade, especially on the production end, are at least as sexy as the drug itself. This is, quite possibly, the planet's most fascinating import-export racket: the United Nations estimated last year that the cocaine trade is worth up $92 billion a year – that's more than Microsoft, Kelloggs and McDonald's generated together.

Streatfield is intrepid, taking us on a dizzying 500-page-plus time-travel from the coastline of Brazil – where in 1499 Vespucci was

greeted by a throng of bright-eyed natives, mouths stuffed with erythroxylum coca – to a shed behind a Texaco station in rural Colombia containing a submarine owned by the Russian Mafia. Still, as we all know, the story of cocaine can't all be told from afar, and Streatfield studs his tales of tropical intrigue with a comprehensive rendition of the drug's use in our backyards. Even more cleverly, he manages what most social historians aspire to do: analogize the human condition through careful study of just one thing: in other words, to find the universe in a grain of blow.

"Buried Incas are invariably found buried with their [coca leaves]...legend relates that he who appreciates the flavour of coca at the moment of death is propelled directly into paradise," he writes. And we can easily follow him along to his rendition, later, of how the drug was mainly used in the 1960s to counterpoint opiate addiction in the middle class.

Though Streatfield's careful research binds him to a heady string of narrative, his prose is exhilarating: though he's no Gonzo journalist, his stop-start, adventurous and quote-studded progress reads like a long conversation with someone whose nose has led him through his fair share of snowdrifts. It all makes sense at the time, perfect sense. But when all is said and done, the drugs have been telling their own story all along. Still, it's a hell of a good yarn.

Bestsellers list

1-THE LOVELY BONES, by Alice Sebold. (Little, Brown, $21.95.) A 14-year-old girl looks down from heaven as she describes what happens in the aftermath of her kidnapping and murder.

2- RED RABBIT, by Tom Clancy. (Putnam, $28.95.) In the early 1980's, when he is a novice in the C.I.A., Jack Ryan must act to thwart a Soviet plot against Pope John Paul II.

3-DARK HORSE, by Tami Hoag. (Bantam, $26.95.) As she searches for a kidnapped teenage girl, a disgraced former policewoman discovers the unsavory side of Palm Beach's glittering equestrian set.

4-THE VOYAGE OF THE JERLE SHANNARA: Morgawr, by Terry Brooks. (Del Rey/Ballantine, $27.95.) The third volume in a fantasy series.

5-STANDING IN THE RAINBOW, by Fannie Flagg. (Random House, $25.95.) Life in Elmwood Springs, Mo., from 1946 to the present.

6-THE REMNANT, by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. (Tyndale, $24.99.) Volume 10 of the "Left Behind" series, in which the forces of good battle the forces of evil after the rapture of the saved. (+)

7-THE GRAVE MAURICE, by Martha Grimes. (Viking, $25.95.) Supt. Richard Jury of New Scotland Yard investigates a stud-farm owner's missing granddaughter, a girl with an uncanny affinity for horses.

8-THE BEACH HOUSE, by James Patterson and Peter de Jonge. (Little, Brown, $26.95.) After his brother drowns in East Hampton, a law student seeks revenge on the powerful people who he thinks are responsible.

9-THE NANNY DIARIES, by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus. (St. Martin's, $24.95.) A satirical look at rich and powerful New Yorkers through the eyes of an Upper East Side nanny.

10- A LOVE OF MY OWN, by E. Lynn Harris. (Doubleday, $24.95.) The C.E.O. and the editor in chief of Bling Bling magazine look for true love in New York City.

11-BLOOD OF VICTORY, by Alan Furst. (Random House, $24.95.) Fleeing occupied Paris in 1940, a world-weary exile joins a covert operation working to sabotage the flow of Romanian oil to Nazi Germany.

12-ELEVENTH HOUR, by Catherine Coulter. (Putnam, $24.95.) When his identical twin brother, a priest, is murdered, an F.B.I, agent searches for the killer.

13-SHADOW PUPPETS, by Orson Scott Card. (Tor/Tom Doherty, $25.95.) After staving off an alien invasion, child-warriors return to find Earth in turmoil.

14- CHARLESTON, by John Jakes. (Button, $26.95.) The experiences of the aristocratic Bell family, from the American Revolution to the Civil War.

15- THE APPRENTICE, by Tess Gerritsen. (Ballantine, $24.95.) Investigating murders that resemble those of a jailed serial killer, a policewoman becomes a target.

16- THE FIRST BILLION, by Christopher Reich. (Delacorte, $26.95) An entrepreneur's plans to make a fortune from a Russian telecom's IPO are complicated by rumors of corruption.

17- THE EMPEROR OF OCEAN PARK, by Stephen L. Carter. (Knopf, $26.95.) The patriarch of a black family, forced to withdraw from consideration for the Supreme Court, dies under mysterious circumstances.

18- PARTNER IN CRIME, by J. A. Jance. (Morrow, $24.95.) After an artist is murdered in the Arizona desert, Sheriff Joanna Brady is ordered to join forces with an outside investigator, J. P. Beaumont.

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E-Mail : idavid@cancom.net

Important Message for Permanent Residents

Canada s Permanent Resident Card

What You Should Know

- **A New Permanent Resident Card:** A more secure and durable proof of residency card for permanent residents (landed immigrants) living in Canada is one feature of Canada s new *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. This tamper-resistant card replaces the paper document (IMM 1000) for travel purposes.
- **Who will need the new Permanent Resident Card:** "Permanent residents" are people who have applied and been accepted to live in Canada. Permanent residents travelling outside of Canada as of December 31, 2003 will need this card to re-enter Canada. Canadian citizens are not eligible for the Permanent Resident Card.
- **Becoming Canadian:** Permanent residents who can become Canadian citizens are encouraged to apply for their citizenship.
- **When To Apply For Your Permanent Resident Card:** Applications are now available. They will be processed based on the year you became a permanent resident of Canada. Check the chart below to see in which month you should apply. For example, if your year of landing as a permanent resident was 1998, you should submit your application in May 2003. There is no need to apply earlier.

YEAR OF LANDING	WHEN TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION
2002	October 15 to November 30, 2002
2001	December to February 2003
2000	March & April 2003
1996 - 1999	May 2003
1992 - 1995	June 2003
1988 - 1991	July 2003
1980 - 1987	August 2003
1973 - 1979	September 2003
Before 1973	ANYTIME after October 2002

For information or application kits:
1 800 255-4541
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www.cic.gc.ca

Canada

Will on the Grill

by Will Nicholls

The first recipe is one I came up with while at home relaxing during the final days of the elections. Congratulations by the way to all those who participate in Cree democracy either as candidates or voters.

Anyhow, we were having a BBQ at casa Nicholls and I made a small BBQ sauce and decided to do a salad. I was inspired by the raspberries out in the back of our house so I picked a bunch. It's one of the nice things about going home at the right times of the year. The berries are in season and I try to stock some up for the long winter months. I rarely eat sweets like chocolate bars or such but prefer the natural taste of fruits and berries to satisfy the sweet tooth.

About this time I also find fresh herbs like parsley all over the place at very cheap prices. I get two bunches for 75 cents. But in most cases it's way too much for me to use so I dry it out and have a new source of spices for the winter. For those of you who have never done this, it's easy. Just tie the herbs into small bunches. Then you blanch them by dipping the herb bunches into boiling water to which a pinch of salt has been added. After that you shake off or towel blot excess water and lay herbs flat on a large baking sheet.

Preheat your oven to 400 degrees and as soon as oven reaches temperature, turn it off and place baking sheet in oven. Keep in oven until completely cooled. Remove the herbs from oven and crumble dried herbs.

You can now add this to your spice stock. 'Nuff said as it's time to cook.

Will's Raspberry Delight Salad

Now you might be wondering why I call this a raspberry delight when there are no raspberries in the salad. Well, it's all in the dressing and mighty tasty too. My family went through a large salad bowl like there was no tomorrow so I can attest to this recipe as being one of my nicest first attempts. I usually refine a recipe after but don't need to in this case.

3 avocados
1 English cucumber
2 red sweet peppers
1 red onion (sweet variety)
1 package of pecans

Chop all ingredients except pecans into large chunks.

Toss together with pecans.

Add raspberry balsamic vinaigrette, tossing again until all is coated.

Raspberry balsamic Vinaigrette
3 teaspoons balsamic vinegar
1/ 4 teaspoon dried basil
1/ 4 teaspoon chives
1/ 2 teaspoon pepper
1/ 4 teaspoon salt (optional, may use salt substitute)
3 small cloves or 1 1/ 2 clove of garlic
1 teaspoon dry mustard
1 ½ cups raspberries
1/ 2 cup virgin olive oil

Chop garlic into small pieces.

Toss all ingredients except oil into a food processor and mix until smooth.

Pour mixture and oil into a airtight container (ie Tupperware) and shake well.

Refridgerate before using.

Pine-Apple Chrisps

Here's an interesting dessert that will have you wondering why you never made it before. It is simple and tasty to make.

3 medium Granny Smith apples, peeled and cored
3/4 cup pineapple preserves
2tablespoons all-purpose flour

Crumb Topping-
2/3 cp flake coconut
1/2 cup quick or old fashioned oats
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/3 cup butter or margarine, melted
1/4 cup whole almonds, chopped
vanilla ice cream (optional)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. For fruit, slice apples into thin rings, then cut rings into quarters. Combine pineapple preserves and flour in mixing bowl. Add apples, tossing to coat evenly. Pour into bottom of a 9-inch pie plate or similar shallow baking dish.

For crumb topping, combine coconut, oats, brown sugar and flour in a mixing bowl. Microwave butter on high for 1 minute and add to chopped almonds. Add butter and almonds to topping ingredients; mix well. Sprinkle topping evenly over apple mixture. Bake 30-35 minutes or until apples are tender and topping is golden brown. Cool slightly. Serve warm with ice cream, if desired.

Amazing Pork Roast:

1 teaspoon dried sage
1 teaspoon dried thyme
1 teaspoon dried rosemary
1 teaspoon crushed marjoram
1 (6 pound) pork tenderloin
4 medium tart apples - cored and cut into 1 inch chunks
1 large red onion - cut into 1 inch chunks
3 tablespoons brown sugar
1 cup apple juice
2/3 cup real maple syrup

Combine the sage, thyme, rosemary, marjoram, salt and pepper. Rub over roast. Cover and refrigerate roast for several hours or overnight. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Place roast in a shallow roasting pan and bake for 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Drain fat. Mix apples and onion with brown sugar. Spoon around roast and continue to cook for 1 hour more or until the internal temperature of the roast is 160 degrees. Transfer the roast, apples and onion to a serving platter and keep warm. Skim excess fat from meat juices. Pour drippings into a heavy skillet. Stir in apple juice and syrup. Cook and stir over medium-high heat until liquid has been reduced by half, about 1 cup. Slice the roast and serve with gravy.

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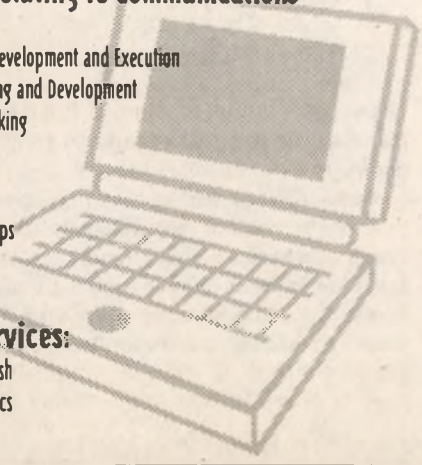

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For correspondence, please call ahead so that I can evaluate your situation through the telephone. This service can be limited since other professionals who are hired to fill forms are available to help most people.

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For more information, please call Christopher Herodier at 819-855-3194. Writing Service also available through E-mail and fax, however, payment will need to be done through a bank for service to be provided. If you wish to contact me through E-mail, do so at cdherodier@hotmail.com. Any faxes to be done will be extra for customers.

Wachiya! C.H.

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Baked Potato Salad

3 Potatoes, Idaho, medium-size
Water
1 1/3 ts Salt
2 tb Salad oil
1/2 c Onion,chopped
1 ts Mustard,prepard
1/4 ts Celery seed
2 tb Cider vinegar
1/2 c Green pepper,diced
1/4 c Carrot,shredded

Put potatoes in a large saucepan with 1 inch cold water and 1 teaspoon salt; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 25 minutes, until potatoes are tender; drain and cool. Peel potatoes and slice 1/4-inch thick; set aside.

Heat oil in a medium-size skillet; saute onion until soft. Stir in flour, mustard, celery seed and remaining 1/3 teaspoon salt. Gradually add 1/2 cup water and vinegar; cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until mixture boils and thickens.

Combine potatoes, green pepper and carrots in a bowl; add sauce, mixing well. Spoon half the mixture into a shallow 8x8-inch baking dish; sprinkle with 1/2 cup cheese. Cover with remaining potato mixture and cheese. Bake, uncovered, in preheated 350 degree oven 15 to 20 minutes, or until cheese is melted and vegetables are hot.

Steak and Potato Salad

1-1/2 pounds beef flank steak, fat trimmed and scored
1 medium sweet onion, cut into small wedges
6 medium Italian plum tomatoes, cut into wedges
4 ears corn, cooked, cut into 1-1/2 inch pieces
1 medium green pepper, sliced
Fresh Herb Vinaigrette (recipe follows)

Grill steak over medium-hot coals to desired degree of doneness, about 20 minutes for medium, turning steak halfway through cooking time. Slice steak, diagonally across grain, into scant 1/4-inch slices. Combine sliced meat and vegetables in shallow serving bowl. Pour dressing over and toss. Serve immediately or refrigerate several hours and serve chilled.

Fresh Herb Vinaigrette

1/3 cup red wine vinegar 1/4 cup water
3 tablespoons olive or vegetable oil
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons sweetener
1 teaspoon dried rosemary leaves
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
1 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
1 teaspoon dried basil leaves
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper

Combine all ingredients in covered jar; shake to mix.

Two great ways to spruce up corn on the cob

Lime and Red Chili Topping

Squeeze fresh lime juice over hot corn, sprinkle with red chile powder and black pepper.

Garlic-Lemon Vinaigrette

In a small bowl, mix together 1 ½ tbsp. of olive oil, 2 tbsp. of fresh lemon juice and 2 cloves of minced garlic. Brush onto hot cobs of corn with a pastry brush.

Childproofing the kitchen:

* Store matches, lighters, sharp utensils and household cleaners in a cabinet accessible only to adults.
* Put child-safety latches on all lower-level cabinets.
* Unplug appliances when not in use and keep cords out of reach of children.
* Never pour hot liquid near a child and never leave hot drinks within reach.
* Use the back burners of the stove and turn pot handles toward the back.
* Watch out for tablecloths - since small children enjoy pulling on the cloth, glasses and plates can fall off.
* Keep stools and chairs away from counters and stoves.
* Be sure to keep alcohol locked away from children.
* Many kitchen accidents occur within seconds. It's best to keep small children out of the kitchen completely. Use a child-safety gate, if possible, in the doorway to keep children out of the kitchen completely when you are in another room.

Cleaning.... now or later

The best way to save time cleaning is to not allow things to get dirty. Here are some very simple and clever things you can do quickly now to avoid heavy cleaning later.

Make Potholders and Tablecloths Unstainable

Spray new potholders and tablecloths with spray starch. This will prevent greasy stains and keep them looking like new. Reapply starch after laundering.

Prevent Refrigerator Odors

Place an uncovered cup of baking soda in the refrigerator. Replace every three months.

Make Stainless Steel Surfaces Spot-Resistant

After cleaning and drying (white vinegar works well), polish stainless steel with a little baby oil and buff it.

Refrigerator Vegetable Bins

Line these with paper towels to absorb moisture. When they begin to get damp, use them to wipe out the bins and then replace with fresh paper towels.

Kitchen Trash Can

Sprinkle a small amount of fresh kitty litter in the bottom of the trash can to absorb moisture and odors. Replace when it gets damp.

Reduce Oven Cleaning

Place a sheet of aluminum foil on the floor of the oven. Replace when soiled.

Messy Hands?

Before going knuckle-deep into messy ingredients (making meatloaf, kneading bread, etc.) place two plastic bags nearby. If the phone rings, or the baby cries, you can quickly use the plastic bags as gloves to keep from leaving a messy trail of food.

Let us know:

Is there a powwow, gathering, festival, tournament or other community event that you want people to know about?
Is there something that the company or organization that you work for is doing that should be noticed by others in Native America?
Is there someone in your community such as an Elder or other role model that you think deserves to be recognized?
What are your politicians up to?
Is there something that is hurting Native people and needs to be brought to light so that it can be put to an end?
What issues (local, national, and international) do you think aren't getting the press they deserve?
Do you have a story that would make people laugh?

Call *the Nation* at 514-272-3077
Ask for Will

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Helping a friend with AIDS

by Marilyn Bearskin Herodier

I wanted to write this article in honor of a friend of mine who is living with a terminal illness. My friend has A.I.D.S. I don't want to write about the illness itself, but rather the emotional and spiritual aspect of this illness.

I hadn't seen my friend in over 10 years, and it just so happened that I got a hold of his phone number and when I arrived in Montreal I called him. He picked me up at the metro and when I saw him I could not help but feel this overwhelming sadness. My childhood friend with whom I grew up with has AIDS, how do you deal with something like that? My tears fell when I hugged him, he was so small, so thin, he commented "It's hard I know."

When we got to his place, we had a lot to talk about, we reminisced about our childhood, we laughed, there was a lot of mixed emotions. I could not help but shed tears every now and then because I knew my friend had an illness that as of today, has no known cure.

At one time he told me he was afraid of dying and that he didn't want to die. What do you say to a friend who says that to you? I responded with tears. My friend was hurting and I could not find the right words to say. I could not help but feel this strong feeling of grief, because when we were growing up he was like a brother to me. I was kind of distressed with myself because I had not educated myself enough about this illness and I could not say anything to him that would make him feel better. But he cleared that up by telling me that the fear he has also had balance, fear with acceptance, he said that he looks at the world differently, because of his experience with this illness, he has learned to appreciate the world more. He talked about love and how he loves everybody and that he does not judge anybody.

My friend is Native, he cannot go home because there are no resources for people living with AIDS where he is from. He needs to be treated in the city. He said he also sees a psychologist to help him deal with the emotional pain he feels.

He said his family is very supportive towards him and that's good, we all need family to stand by us in everything we go through and do.

So in conclusion to this story, I would just like to say Thank-you to my friend for having faith in me by sharing his feelings and allowing me to write this story in The Nation. My friend made me realize that no matter what we go through in our lives we still have to wake up each morning and appreciate what life has to offer that day. And that each end of the day Give Thanks to the Creator God for that day.

Respect what has been given to you, respect the life that you are given. This is what my friend has taught me.
Meeqwetch.

The first day of school

Xavier Kataquapit

The beginning of a new school year is an event that involves everyone in a small remote First Nation community.

Parents and Elders in First Nation communities believe in teaching and exposing children to our people's traditional and cultural practices. They also understand that youth need a good education in the non-Native world. The first day of school is a big day for parents and their children.

Preparing for school was an important event for our family. It was always a busy time for mom, who took care of preparing, at one time, nine children including myself, for the first day of school. Mom shopped for clothing for all of us throughout the year but the week leading up the opening of school was an important shopping trip that involved us all. The local Hudson's Bay Company store was the only place in town to shop for new clothes. Mom made several trips taking two or three of us at a time to allow us to choose our new clothes. Of course, she made most of the choices in the end but did ask for our approval to a degree. She wanted to make sure that we would wear what she had chosen.

The very first day of school was announced on a bulletin board at the HBC store and on the local Church television channel which was locally broadcast by the Catholic Church on channel eight. On that much anticipated first day of school myself and my brothers and sisters made our way as a group in our brand new clothes to the J.R. Nakogee Elementary School. Normally, our walk to school would take us over muddy trails and backyard short cuts but on that first day of school mom made us promise to take the long way on the gravel road. She wanted us to look our best for day one.

The walk to school on that first day at 8:30 a.m. was always a spectacle. Just about every young boy and girl in the community was on the march with family members. Parents, big sisters or big brothers led the younger ones down the road to school. It was strange to see so many of my cousins and friends in brand new clothes and all at the same time. Of course the clothes did not stay that way for long.

People assembled in groups around the school waiting to enter. There were several entrances to the building but only the main front lobby doors leading to the gymnasium were open for the first day of school. At the sound of an electronic bell, the three door front entrance was opened and everyone moved into the gymnasium.

The crowd gathered around the gymnasium entrance and faced a group of teachers, the principal and other school staff.

There were familiar faces and some new ones. The principal quickly made a welcoming address. Then each teacher, starting from the lower grades to the highest read out a list of students and asked them to assemble up front.

Once the teacher finished calling out their new class, the group was lined up and led to one of the classrooms in the school. In my group of siblings, we left one at a time to join our friends, cousins and other relatives in our own individual classes.

There was always a lot of anxiety for everyone on the first day. Although we were excited at the new start, we were all shy and quiet and did not readily communicate with our new teacher. It would take at least a month before things gelled.

Like every young student, we didn't exactly look forward to having to spend time indoors and away from our need to run around, explore and play outside. At the same time it felt good to be in a new environment. Attending school also offered other comforts that we did not have at home at the time, such as running water and flush toilets in the bathrooms and access at least once a week to the gym showers.

We also enjoyed the structure at school as it provided us with a feeling of security and purpose. However, that benefit had its downside too. Being inside went against our nature and we spent much of our time trying to figure out how to escape from school.

Now when I look back I have to laugh at just how strange the whole thing was. That first day of school.

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On behalf of the **Cree Nation** *of* **Ouje Bougoumou**
we join your family and friends in wishing you all the ***best in your studies***
during the 2002-2003 school year.

The future is yours... if you want it!

SMOKES ON THE WATER

HIGH TAXES REVIVE THE MOHAWK CIGARETTE TRADE

by M.J. Milloy

"The only reason people are making a big deal out of it is because the government 'aint gettin' their cut," the Mohawk teenager says bluntly, referring to the shelves of cheap, aboriginally-produced cigarettes for sale in his Kahnawake smoke-shack.

The teenager – who won't give his name, nor allow pictures in his store – says he has been selling the cigarettes for at least a year. There are about a dozen other smoke shacks on the territory; the trade is nothing new, he says. But he admits business, especially from suburban Montrealers, has been more brisk lately.

Cheap smokes in Kahnawake: The words are the map to Nirvana for the huge pool of Montreal-area nicotine addicts now paying almost $8 a pack, above even the bad old days of the early 90s. They're like a red flag to the big bulls of Canadian politics and law enforcement who, largely ignorant of the finer points of aboriginal treaty rights, see the trade as illegal, no different from organized crime smuggling in kilos of other highly addictive substances. To many, but not all, Mohawks, they are a plan for if not community than personal economic development in a territory with few natural resources or tourist draws.

And, like many parts of the relationship between Mohawk and Montreal, the spectre of 1990 is never far away.

So what'll happen if the SQ tries to bust this place? "They know better. I've got my gun right here," says the kid, nodding down to a rifle propped up against the back of the counter. "I make one call and this place is full of guys in under 10 minutes. Guns and everything."

Akwasasne tobacco plants

The cigarettes are produced in two plants in Akwesasne, the Mohawk community just outside Cornwall, Ontario. Akwesasne straddles the borders of Ontario, Quebec and New York State and has for years been a thriving entrepot for free-traders who want their wares to pass unnoticed by Canadian and American customs and law-enforcement eyes. Rowena General, a representative of the Akwesasne Band Council, says the trade is perfectly legitimate, as goods produced and sold by aboriginal people on aboriginal territory are, by law and treaty, exempt from federal and provincial taxes.

The area has seen smuggling before. In the late 80s and early 90s, high government taxes on cigarettes – and tobacco executives who were worried about losing market share – combined to create a huge contraband supply of smokes. In 1994, the federal government slashed taxes, an admission that RCMP attempts to beat the lucrative trade had failed. But the new trade in cheap smokes, coming as new federal and provincial taxes push the cost of cigarettes up to pre-1994 levels, has Canadian authorities worried.

"We're concerned with the contraband goods that are being smuggled across the border," said Constable Marie-Claude Arsenault with the RCMP's Cornwall detachment. Montreal-area Mounties, SQ and local police have promised to crack down on the smokes, charging anyone who buys them.

Timmy Norton, the public-relations officer for the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake, says everything is legit.

"Any product that is delivered here to the community – cars, furniture, whatever – is tax-free," he said. Any goods sold to non-aboriginals? "People selling it feel it is their right to sell it tax-free."

While selling taxable products to non-aboriginals is not specifically defined under law and treaty, numerous court decisions have upheld the right of aboriginal people to economic activity exempt from taxation.

One of Canada's top scholars of aboriginal rights agrees. "In their narrow-minded view of the law, [the RCMP] probably thinks they are right. The fact that we have a different status on reserves is an established fact of Canadian law," said Gerald Alfred, a professor at the University of Victoria. A Mohawk, he saw the early-90s trade from the inside, working for a top smuggler.

Policing protocol

But as anyone who watched the recent embarassing implosion of the biker gang mega-trial knows, guilt or innocence is one thing; enforcement is quite another. As the kid in the smoke shack roughly pointed out, it is unlikely Canadian police agencies would raid Kahnawake given the sorry history of 1990. And a policing deal signed since the crisis requires Canadian authorities to enforce any laws through Kahnawake's police force, the Peacekeepers. "There is a protocol signed between the SQ, RCMP and Peacekeepers," said Norton. "Any actions will be taken by the Peacekeepers. There will be no raids on the community."

Norton says the problem might be solved at the negotiating table. Although he wouldn't release any specifics, he disclosed officials from Kahnawake, Ottawa and Quebec City are working on a protocol to address how Mohawks can recoup the cost of highly-taxed goods, like gasoline, alcohol and tobacco.

Norton is convinced the RCMP, knowing their anti-tobacco case is legally shaky and virtually unenforceable, are just tring to scare customers off. "They're trying to scare non-natives into not coming here and buying cigarettes. It's scare tactics as public relations."

Whatever the bluster, it's unlikely the new trade in cheap smokes will come anywhere near the levels of the 1990s, if for the simple reason the two cigarette plants in Akwesasne employing 200 people do not have anywhere near the productive capacity to keep Montreal, a city of inveterate smokers, satisfied.

Still, Alfred worries either ignorance or stupidity could cause Canada and Quebec to pick a fight with the Mohawk nation over the smokes, with disastrous consequences. "I don't know if they've learned from their past mistakes. Everytime they try to provoke the Mohawks into disarray, they just provoke us into unity. If that's the plan – bring it on."

CLASSIFIEDS

100 – BIRTHS

Congratulations to our daughter Maggie Longchap and her boyfriend Peterson Brien on the birth of their baby boy Nyles Adam Charlie Longchap-Brien born on September 2nd 2002 at 3:35pm weighing 8lbs. 6oz. Congratulations on your new little bundle of love! And a warm welcome to the new little ray of sunshine. "When the Lord reached down His hand to add this babe... greatest blessing he could bestow". Maggie and Pete take good care of your little baby boy. Love and Prayers and Kisses to you and your new son. Mom & Dad (Annie & William).

101 – BIRTHDAYS

To my little brat baby sister, Jessyka, I want to wish you the happiest birthday ever! We all LOVE you, you're really a good kid. HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Luv always, Mandy, Adario, the kids and of course Fluffy.

I want to send a belated birthday wish to my sister, Enomey. Happy Birthday on August 5th. With love, Your brother ADARIO

Happy birthday to my nieces Patricia Angel Jolly and Jacie Ryanne J.W. on September 10, 2002. I Love You Both So Much, I Always Miss You Too...Luv Always Your Aunt Cel...(Nem)

I would like to wish a Happy Belated Birthday to my sister Minnie Future St-Gelais on August 6th 2002. Hope your day was as fulfilling as you hoped it would be. Well anyway take care and don't give up. You know what I mean. From Charlene C. Bosum

I would like to wish a Happy Belated Birthday to my cousin and friend Rita Capissisit on June 17th. I know it's kind of late, but like they say; better late than never, right? Wishing you all the best, take care. In friendship, Charlene C. Bosum.

Our sweet and adorable niece Angel Helen Baribeau will be celebrating her 2nd Birthday on Sunday September 8th 2002. May your Birthday be a special day for you to remember all year long. We love you so much, from the top of your head to the bottom of your little toes. You are very special and loved a lot. With lots of love, Aunties Stephanie & Frances xoxoxoxo.

I would like to wish my granddaughter Angel Helen Baribeau a very Happy 2nd Birthday on Sunday September 8th 2002. Always remember that grandma loves you very much even though you drive me crazy sometimes. I always enjoy having you come over and calling me Googoonash. With lots of love, from Grandma Eva.

Happy Belated Birthday to William Longchap Jr. on August 25th 2002. Hope you had a great time on your birthday. And I sure hope you got what you wanted for your birthday. We love you so much. Love always, Mom & Dad (Annie & William).

I want to wish little Angelina Kawapit Masty a Happy 1st Birthday. She'll celebrate it on September 13th 2002 in Whapmagoostui. You bring so much joy to all of us and wish you health and happiness for the years to come. From Mary Niquanicappo.

We would like to wish a Happy 1st Birthday to our beautiful daughter Angelina Kawapit Masty. She'll be celebrating her birthday on September 13th 2002. We wish you all the best in life and we love you so so much. From your Mom & Dad.

103-ANNIVERSARIES

A day of remembrance, a day of celebration, a day when two hearts joined in love and faith. May your day be as wonderful as you both are, happy anniversary to Matthew & Emma Wapachee on September 10, 2002. I love you both very much! From your daughter, Cel...(Nem)

105 – ORBITUARY

In loving memory of our precious little Angel Gabriel Petawabano-Loon. He came with just a short period of time and left with the Angels in heaven on September 15th 2001. It has been almost a year since you departed from us. As each day goes by you are in our hearts and there is not a single day that we would stop thinking about you. We can only imagine how cute you would be. We waited patiently to have you here with us, but God took you away to be in a better place, maybe they needed more Angels in heaven, so He choose you. We have sweet memories of you and we will always love you Son. Sadly missed. Love always and forever in our hearts. Linda & Clarence Loon from Mistissini.

CANADA — SUPERIOR COURT

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC
DISTRICT OF HULL — (Family Division)

NO : 550-04-007516-020

PRESENT: Céline Dubé
Greffière-adjointe

CHRISTINE DUFF
Applicant

EDDIE BEARSKIN
Defendant

ASSIGNATION

ORDER is given to **EDDIE BEARSKIN** to appear before the office of the Clerk of the Court House located at 17, Laurier Street, Room 0.210, Hull, District of Hull, Province of Quebec, within twenty days of the present notice in the journal "The Nation"

A copy of the Declaration of separation has been deposited at the attention of EDDIE BEARSKIN.

GATINEAU, Province of Quebec

DATE: 21 août 2002

Gatineau, 21 août 2002

Céline Dubé
Greffière-adjointe

Court Clerk

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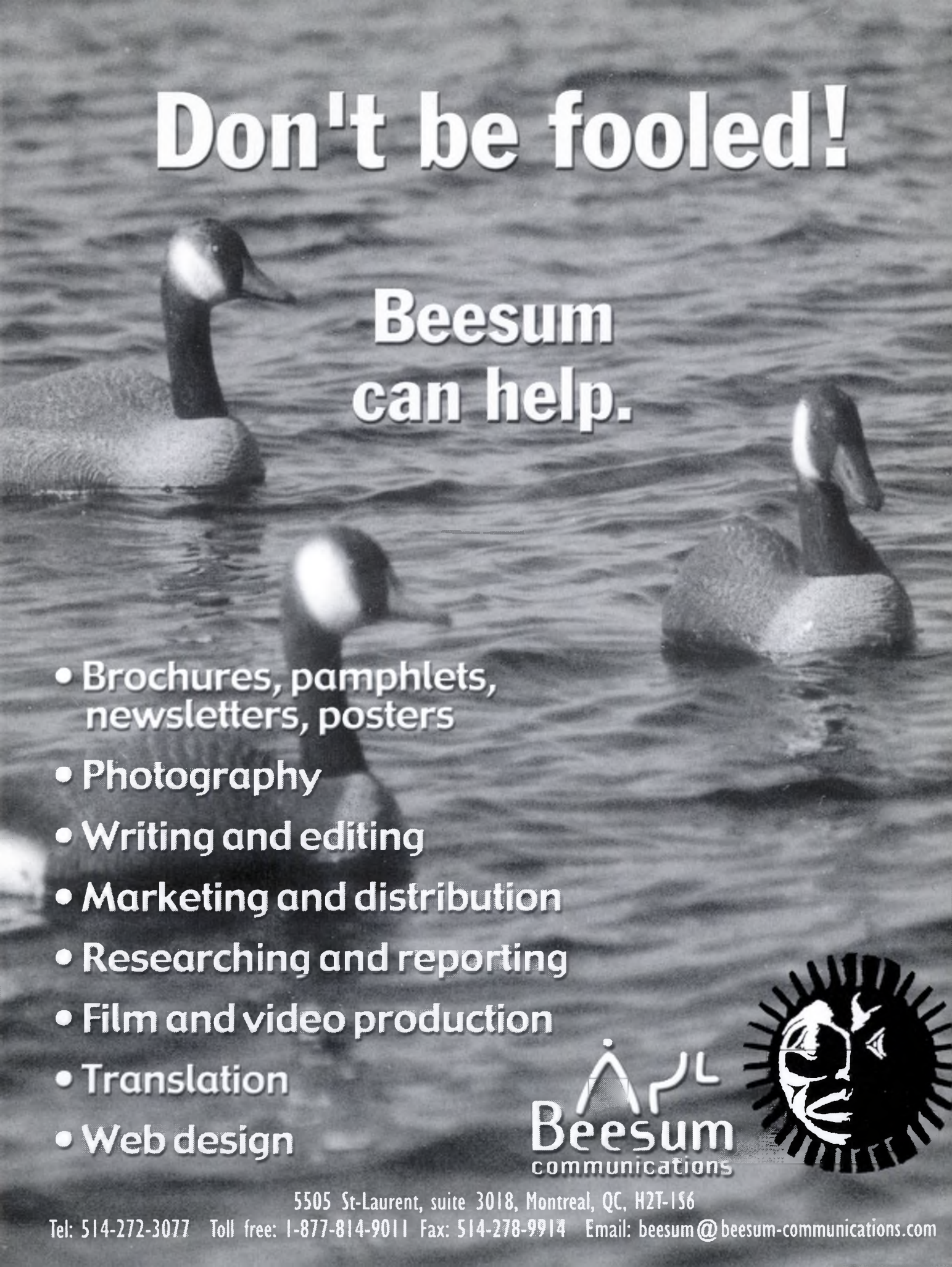
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